

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1026

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lawrence Arthur "L.A." Westley of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lawrence Arthur "L.A." Westley; and

WHEREAS, L.A. Westley was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westley served with acumen and alacrity as the elected president of the Memphis Area Association of Realtors (MAAR) and founder of Westley and Associates, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers, clients, and the greater community alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting great leadership acumen, Mr. Westley served as director of the Mortgage Bankers Association of Memphis, Region I Vice President for the Tennessee Association of Realtors, and a director of the National Association of Realtors; and

WHEREAS, a public servant of the highest order, L.A. Westley contributed to his community in numerous ways, including spearheading efforts to have fire hydrants installed in neighborhoods and volunteering with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, perhaps L.A. Westley's greatest gift to his beloved Memphis community was his election as president of the MAAR in 1996; he was the first man of color to lead this distinguished organization, and his election smoothed the way for other minority-owned-and-operated realty firms to take on leadership positions within the MAAR; and

WHEREAS, an educator at heart, Mr. Westley was a former biology teacher and administrative assistant at Melrose High School; and

WHEREAS, he began his real estate career in 1963, working part-time in a property management position; he became a member of the MAAR in 1974, and moved on to co-found Supreme Mortgage and Realty; and

WHEREAS, rendering sterling service as a mentor for the real estate community, Mr. Westley consistently stressed the importance of education and was hailed by his protégés for his honorable and astute guidance; and

WHEREAS, L.A. Westley was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-nine years, Cecelia Willis Westley, and was the proud father of Dr. Ella Westley Horton; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his two grandsons; and

WHEREAS, L.A. Westley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional realtor and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lawrence Arthur “L.A.” Westley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Westley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.